

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The laser oscillation element according to claim 1, A~~
laser oscillation element, comprising:

a first cholesteric liquid crystal layer containing cholesteric liquid crystals;

a second cholesteric liquid crystal layer containing cholesteric liquid crystals

facing said first cholesteric liquid crystal layer;

and a defect layer containing a dye which emits fluorescence upon optical
excitation disposed between said first cholesteric liquid crystal layer and said second
cholesteric liquid crystal layer, wherein:

the selective reflection wavelength band in said cholesteric liquid crystals and the
fluorescence emission band of the fluorescence emitted from said dye overlap with
each other in at least a part of the wavelength range;

the helical winding directions of the cholesteric liquid crystals in said first
cholesteric liquid crystal layer and said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer are
identical; and

the transition moments of said dye are parallel to the surfaces of said first
cholesteric liquid crystal layer and said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer,

wherein said defect layer is composed of an anisotropic medium.

3. (Original) A laser oscillation element, comprising:
a first cholesteric liquid crystal layer containing cholesteric liquid crystals;
a second cholesteric liquid crystal layer containing cholesteric liquid crystals
facing said first cholesteric liquid crystal layer; and
a defect layer composed of an anisotropic medium disposed between said first
cholesteric liquid crystal layer and said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer, wherein:
the helical winding directions of the cholesteric liquid crystals in said first
cholesteric liquid crystal layer and said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer are
identical;
a dye which emits fluorescence upon optical excitation is contained in at least
one of said first cholesteric liquid crystal layer, said defect layer and said second
cholesteric liquid crystal layer; and
the selective reflection wavelength band in said first cholesteric liquid crystal
layer and said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer, and the fluorescence emission
band of the fluorescence emitted from said dye, overlap in at least part of the
wavelength range.

4. (Currently Amended) The laser oscillation element according to claim
[[1]]2, wherein said defect layer contains liquid crystals.

5. (Original) The laser oscillation element according to claim 4, wherein said
liquid crystals are nematic liquid crystals.

6. (Original) The laser oscillation element according to claim 5, wherein the
transition moments of said dye and the directors of said nematic liquid crystals are
aligned parallel to each other.

7. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 5, wherein said dye is contained in the same layer as the nematic liquid crystals.

8. (Currently Amended) The laser oscillation element according to claim [[1]]2, wherein said cholesteric liquid crystals have a wavelength at an emission peak in an emission band of the fluorescence emitted from said dye in the selective reflection wavelength band.

9. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 4, wherein said dye is an organic dye.

10. (Currently Amended) The laser oscillation element according to claim [[1]]2, wherein said first cholesteric liquid crystal layer and said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer are aligned such that the directors of the cholesteric liquid crystals in the surface on the defect layer side of said first cholesteric liquid crystal layer, and the directors of the cholesteric liquid crystals in the surface on the defect layer side of said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer, are parallel to each other.

11. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 3, wherein said defect layer contains liquid crystals.

12. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 11, wherein said liquid crystals are nematic liquid crystals.

13. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 8, wherein the transition moments of said dye and the directors of said nematic liquid crystals are aligned parallel to each other.

14. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 9, wherein the transition moments of said dye and the directors of said nematic liquid crystals are aligned parallel to each other.

15. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 3, wherein said cholesteric liquid crystals have a wavelength at an emission peak in an emission band of the fluorescence emitted from said dye in the selective reflection wavelength band.

16. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 5, wherein said dye is an organic dye.

17. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 6, wherein said dye is an organic dye.

18. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 7, wherein said dye is an organic dye.

19. (Previously Presented) The laser oscillation element according to claim 3, wherein said first cholesteric liquid crystal layer and said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer are aligned such that the directors of the cholesteric liquid crystals in the surface on the defect layer side of said first cholesteric liquid crystal layer, and the directors of the cholesteric liquid crystals in the surface on the defect layer side of said second cholesteric liquid crystal layer, are parallel to each other.